

PENNSYLVANIA GAY SUPPORT NETWORK
MINUTES JULY 15, 1978

In the absence of Gary Norton, Mary Nancarrow called the meeting to order. Since the meeting was still being hosted by the Rural Gay Caucus, Robert Wood, Secretary of the Caucus was chosen as temporary chair. Mary then announced that there had not been a Purposes Committee meeting at 12 noon because no one had shown up.

The meeting began with random statements and discussion about how to proceed. The minutes of the prior June 17th meeting were read. It was emphasized that it had been decided to create a separate organization from the Rural Gay Caucus and a MOTION was passed to temporarily name it "Pennsylvania Gay Support Network" until a more appropriate name can be found.

It was moved and passed that we set 4:30 as a deadline and allot the time according to crucial issues. These were:

I. Resources

II. Purpose

1. Political action
2. Outreach
3. Dissemination of info.
4. Statewide switchboard
5. Needs of the Gay Community
6. Telephone Tree

III. Structure

I. Resources

General Discussion: It was decided that resources are that which we have here, can take back with us and that which we have in our communities. Resources were received as follows:

1. PRESBYTERIANS FOR GAY CONCERNS-Lawrence Weiser (215-664-4420)

A. A telephone tree is already set up between Presbyterian Ministers throughout the State. Many Ministers will counsel and PGC is setting up training programs for Ministers of other denominations.

B. Family counseling is also offered. This is defined as:

1. Situations encountered by POG.
2. Emotional concerns of Gay offspring.
3. Situations encountered by Gay Parents.

C. Most contacts are in Philadelphia & area but they also extend over the entire State. Some are also available for civil rights action.

* DIGNITY, PITTSBURGH. Ron Lawrence (412-243-8835). Resources are limited and are as follows:

- A. Chaplains for counseling
- B. Chaplains for speaking engagements
- C. Phone and volunteers

While there are local chapters of Dignity there is no State nor National Organization.

- Gay Switchboard of Phila. Paul Jablonski (215-928-1919)

The Switchboard has extensive files on the Eastern half of Pa. as well as 2 phones to receive incoming calls in the evening. These phones must be kept free for incoming calls but a small number of outgoing calls might be made under certain circumstances by authorized switchboard personnel.

GAY COMMUNITY CENTER OF PHILA., Betti Watts-(215-WA-2-1623)

There are 2 phones (other than switchboard) for incoming and outgoing calls as well as office space and a desk for a telephone tree. We have volunteers and can do mailings though we cannot commit ourselves financially. We have a very good relationship with the media and can get PSA's (public service announcements) without any difficulty. We also have a media list of at least 100 names.

v DIGNITY, HARRISBURG. Steve Leshner(717-545-9529) While he cannot speak for Dignity, Harrisburg because he is not an official representative, Dignity does have speakers and access to a zerox machine.

v SEXUAL MINORITIES COUNCIL OF PA. Mary Nancarrow(717-697-3482) Can do limited mailings.

: Rapid Action for Gay Equality, Pittsburgh. John Zinsmeister (412-665-1710) Has a coalition with organizations in the area such as the ACLU. Access to phones and zerox machine.

8. RURAL GAY CAUCUS, Mary Nancarrow (717-697-3482) has the following:
 - A. Mailing list (2 years old)
 - B. Conference coordinating expertise (Gay Pride '78)
 - C. Lobbying Packets
 - D. Access to xerox machine
 - E. Good relationship with radio stations
 - F. Individual phones and no funds.
9. HOMOPHILE ACTION LEAGUE, WILLIAMSPORT, Richard Smith (717-322-8216)
Telephone Tree is already in existence.

II. Purpose

General discussion: The Network should be self-supporting and administrative. It should include internal and external outreach. It should have short range and long range goals which can vary from time to time and should respond to the needs of the gay community.

1. Political Action

General discussion: The Network should be involved in political action which is non-partisan and non-coercive to other gays.

- A. Those in the network who don't want to participate politically won't have to.
- B. Political action should be more than an auxiliary.

MOTION: We accept political action as one of our goals. PASSED.

2. Outreach

General discussion: Outreach should be to the community but we should be careful not to overextend ourselves.

- A. Organizational outreach
Should help communities organize but avoid internal interference.
- B. Encourage others to join us.
- C. Provide spiritual outreach i.e. the cooperative efforts of various religious organizations.

MOTION: We accept organizational outreach as a goal and will assist administratively when necessary. PASSED.

3. Dissemination of information

General Discussion: To disseminate information of an emergency nature which usually requires some type of action. To share event information which is of importance to gay persons.

MOTION: ONE of the purposes of this organization is to disseminate information which could be political at times. PASSED.

4. Statewide Switchboard

General Discussion: The consensus was that we should develop a linkage between the 4 existing switchboards as indicated at the June 17th meeting.

MOTION: To encourage the formation of a Statewide Switchboard network. PASSED.

5. Telephone Tree

General Discussion: If switchboards could assist it would be helpful. Mention was made of Sam Dietz' lists of persons for Gay Pride '78. It was pointed out that in the western half of the State there are no organizations.

MOTION: We should develop a telephone tree system based on the 4 existing switchboards if possible. That the State be accordingly divided into 4 corresponding areas. That a hand map be drawn indicating these areas and also the coordinators decided upon at the June 17th meeting. That this map be mailed along with the minutes of this meeting to all interested parties. That all area coordinators be urged to begin their telephone trees at once. (The map is to be drawn by Betti Watts.) PASSED.

III. Structure

General Discussion: Perhaps we should select 1 person or a small group to form the structure and even make decisions subject to the approval of the membership. Perhaps there should be one person from each area to form an ad hoc committee.

MOTION: An ad hoc executive committee be formed that be representative of the Networks membership. That this committee function for 4 months and then another committee be chosen if necessary.

Duties would be:

- 1/administrative
 - 2/agenda
 - 3/necessary decisions
- A) minutes B) Chair Selection

The MOTION PASSED but implementation was delayed to the next meeting. Robert Woods of the Rural Gay Caucus was chosen to chair the next meeting which will be in Harrisburg at the Friends Meeting House, 6th and Herr Sts. at 1 p.m. on Saturday, August .

Respectfully submitted,

Betti Watts
Recorder (pro-tem)